

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 34 to 45 as follows:

34. (new) A method for altering protease-mediated digestion of amyloid precursor protein (APP) in a patient with Alzheimer's disease, comprising the step of administering to said patient an effective amount of an agent which is capable of crossing the blood brain barrier, wherein said agent modulates the interaction within the central nervous system between a divalent or trivalent cation and/or heparin with amyloid precursor protein (APP) of said patient.

35. (new) The method according to claim 34, wherein the cation is a divalent cation.

36. (new) The method according to claim 35, wherein said divalent cation is zinc.

37. (new) The method according to claim 34, wherein said agent is a zinc-binding agent.

38. (new) The method according to claim 37, wherein said zinc-binding agent is selected from sodium citrate, EDTA, 1,2-diethyl-3-hydroxypyridin-4-one, and 1-hydroxyethyl-3-hydroxy-2-methylpyridin-4-one.

39. (new) The method according to claim 37, wherein said zinc-binding agent is orally administered to said patient.

40. (new) A method of reducing incorrect protease-mediated processing of amyloid precursor protein (APP) in a patient with Alzheimer's disease, comprising the step of administering said patient to an effective amount of an agent which is capable of crossing the blood brain barrier, wherein said agent modulates the interaction within the

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central nervous system between a divalent or trivalent cation and/or heparin with amyloid precursor protein (APP) of said patient.

41. (new) The method according to claim 40, wherein the cation is a divalent cation.

42. (new) The method according to claim 41, wherein said divalent cation is zinc.

43. (new) The method according to claim 40, wherein said agent is a zinc-binding agent.

44. (new) The method according to claim 43, wherein said zinc-binding agent is selected from sodium citrate, EDTA, 1,2-diethyl-3-hydroxypyridin-4-one, and 1-hydroxyethyl-3-hydroxy-2-methylpyridin-4-one.

45. (new) The method according to claim 43, wherein said zinc-binding agent is orally administered to said patient.

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 28-45 are pending. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendment appears at pages 6-7 of Applicants' specification. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments in order to place the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. Applicants confirm their intention to amend claims 28 and 30 in their amendment dated December 10, 2001.

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